

What is claimed is:

1. A network system which communicates with a network device storing information or an object,
5 and has a function of retrieving information, comprising:

an information network address unit assigning an information network address which is a network address to a name of the information or the object;
10 and

an information retrieval communications unit establishing communications for the network device storing the information or the object corresponding to the information network address.

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2. The system according to claim 1, wherein said information network address unit comprises an information network address generation unit inputting information indicating a feature of
20 the information or the object, and outputting the information network address.

3. The system according to claim 2, wherein said information network address unit
25 comprises an operations unit generating the

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4. The system according to claim 3, wherein
said operations unit computes an error
detection and correction code.

5. The system according to claim 3, wherein said operations unit computes a secure hash function.

6. The system according to claim 2, wherein said information network address generation unit is equipped with a database for accumulating correspondence between the information or the object and the information network address, and generates the information network address by searching the database.

7. The system according to claim 6, wherein said information network address generation unit adds a record type indicating the name of the information or the object to a server of a domain name system which is the database, and obtains an information network address corresponding to the

identification unit identifying the information network address; and

an information route management unit managing an information route using the information network address, wherein

said relaying portion relays the packet through the information route.

11. The system according to claim 10, wherein said information route management unit manages the information route according to information set in a packet transmitted from a previously relayed information network address.

12. The system according to claim 1, wherein said information retrieval communications unit establishes communications using the information network address by using an existing network address as the information network address and an existing communications mechanism for the network address.

13. The system according to claim 1, wherein said information retrieval communications unit assigns the information network address to an

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existing anycast address.

14. The system according to claim 1, wherein
said information retrieval communications
5 unit assigns the information network address to an
existing multicast address.

15. The system according to claim 1, wherein
said information retrieval communications
10 unit assigns the information network address to an
existing broadcast address.

16. A network terminal device which communicates
with a network device storing information or an
15 object, and has a function of retrieving information,
comprising:

an information network address unit assigning
an information network address which is a network
address to a name of the information or the object;
20 and

an information retrieval communications unit
establishing communications for the network device
storing information or an object corresponding to
the information network address.

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5 program comprising:

information or the object; and

10 device storing the information or the object
corresponding to the information network address.

15 which stores information or an object using an
 information network address which is a network
 address assigned to a name of the information or
 the object, comprising:

20 identification unit identifying the information
network address; and

an information route management unit managing
an information route using the information network
address, wherein

25 said packet is relayed through the information

19. A computer-readable storage medium storing a program used for a computer forming a network relay device which relays communications established for a network device which stores information or an object using an information network address which is a network address assigned to a name of the information or the object, said program comprising:

5 identifying the information network address;

managing an information route according to the information network address; and

relaying the packet through the information route.

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